

Claims

- [c1] 1.A method for arranging Mandarin Phonetic Symbols on a keypad, Mandarin Phonetic Symbols consisting of 37 symbols, the method comprising:
arranging the 37 symbols onto 11 or 12 keys of the keypad.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the 37 symbols are arranged onto 12 keys of the keypad.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 2 wherein symbols "ㄟ", "ㄨ" and "ㄣ" are arranged onto different keys of the keypad.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 3 wherein symbols "ㄟ", "ㄨ" and "ㄣ" are arranged onto * key, 0 key and # key.
- [c5] 5.The method of claim 2 wherein symbol "ㄣ" is arranged onto the same key with one of symbols "ㄟ", "ㄨ" and "ㄣ".
- [c6] 6.The method of claim 5 wherein symbol "ㄣ" is arranged onto the same key with symbol "ㄣ".
- [c7] 7.The method of claim 1 wherein the keypad is positioned on an electronic device.
- [c8] 8.The method of claim 7 wherein the electronic device is a personal data assistant (PDA).
- [c9] 9.The method of claim 7 wherein the electronic device is a cellular phone.
- [c10] 10.The method of claim 7 wherein the electronic device comprises a display panel for displaying information.
- [c11] 11.The method of claim 10 wherein the display panel is a liquid crystal display.
- [c12] 12.The method of claim 10 wherein Mandarin Phonetic Symbols consist of a plurality of initials and a plurality of finals, the method further comprising:
when entering a key on the keypad to input an initial and another key to input a final, possible combinations of initials and finals corresponding to the keys are displayed in a manner that combinations having the same initial are displayed on the same line, and combinations having different initials are displayed on

different lines.

- [c13] 13.The method of claim 12 wherein the lines are columns.
- [c14] 14.The method of claim 12 wherein the lines are rows.
- [c15] 15.The method of claim 12 further comprising:
displaying characters corresponding to a selected initial, final or combination on
the display panel.
- [c16] 16.The method of claim 15 wherein the characters are displayed according to
frequencies of the characters being selected.
- [c17] 17.The method of claim 15 further comprising:
after selecting a character, displaying characters which may be entered later on
the display panel.
- [c18] 18.The method of claim 15 further comprising:
using direction keys on the keypad to display characters corresponding to the
selected initial, final or combination but not shown on the display panel.
- [c19] 19.The method of claim 15 further comprising:
associating characters with keys on the keypad.
- [c20] 20.The method of claim 19 further comprising:
using direction keys on the keypad to associate keys on the keypad with
characters which are not associated with the keys.